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APR 23 2015

Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Bill Oldham, Sheriff

April 16, 2015

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Communication**
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

DOCKET FILE COPY CONTROL

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Shelby County, Tennessee Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Shelby County Sheriff's Office supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to my office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

The Shelby County Sheriff's Office operates the seventh (7th) largest Jail in the United States, with an average daily population of approximately 2,100 inmates. There are approximately 375 telephones for the use of inmates in our two (2) facilities and the phones are available almost ten (10) hours every day.

The provider pays for the service and maintenance of the phones, which provides the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service for the benefit of inmates and their families.

If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate inmate access to phones in our facilities. Denying payments to jails, or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Our impoverished, aging and seriously ill inmate population is taxing our staff and our ability to provide for our inmates in lean economic times. In addition to security and administrative functions that must be maintained, we offer numerous programs for inmates that are critical to the support of local specialty courts and to our goal of allowing the inmates to productively and constructively await trial.

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Our programs allow our inmates to complete their education, learn parenting skills, address alcohol/drug/anger issues, and much more as my administration tries to prepare them for successful re-entry to our community.

To continue the ICS program, Sheriffs must be allowed to recover our costs so that we can provide this valuable service to our inmates.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Oldham, Sheriff
Shelby County Sheriff's Office



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